

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Furthermore, Sinclair Broadcasting is the largest owner of local television stations in the United States. Given that the current administration staunchly allows companies like Sinclair to get even bigger, Sinclair's current actions are clearly aimed at strengthening the company's hold on the public airways. This makes their proposed airing of the anti-Kerry documentary is highly suspect.

Whether or not the owners Sinclair Broadcasting agree or disagree with John Kerry's candidacy for the Presidency is a private matter and beside the point. What is happening here is a subversive, possibly corrupt, use of the public airwaves in order to benefit Sinclair Broadcasting. It's so much more than an issue of politics and the FCC's actions (or inaction) concerning media consolidation will have lasting effects for decades.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Thank you.